

Message Text

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41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 291756Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5977

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 16537

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG PFOR UK LY

SUBJECT: OXY DISPUTE WITH LARG

REF: LONDON 16274, TRIPOLI 1205

1. ESPEY (PRESIDENT OF OXY LIBYA) TELLS US OXY HAS BEEN MEETING WITH LIBYANS SINCE OCTOBER 25 WITH NOTHING DEFINITE DECIDED AND NO DEADLINE SET AS YET FOR ENDING NEGOTIATIONS. HE IS ENCOURAGED HOWEVER BY MERE FACT TWO SIDES ARE STILL TALKING.

2. ACCORDING TO ESPEY, LIBYAN TEAM HAS LISTENED SYMPATHETICALLY ON STAFF PERSONNEL TRAVEL SITUATION. BUT HE ADDS TEAM MEMBERS HERE ARE NOT THOSE LARG OFFICIALS WHO CAN ACTUALLY HELP RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. ESPEY NOTES HOWEVER THAT IF COMMERCIAL ASPECTS ARE SETTLED, THERE SHOULD BE NO MORE DIFFICULTY WITH PERSONNEL TRAVEL.

3. ESPEY SAYS OXY HAS PRESENTED A VARIETY OF POSSIBLE COMMERCIAL PACKAGES WHICH PROVIDE FOR COMPANY EITHER MAINTAINING ITS PRODUCTION OPERATION OR PULLING OUT OF LIBYA ALTOGETHER. OXY IS UNDER SOME TIME CONSTRAINTS HOWEVER BECAUSE OF NEED TO GET TRAVEL BAN LIFTED BEFORE FIELD PERSONNEL GET "SPOOKED" AND DIFFICULTY IN CARRYING OPERATING EXPENSES OVER A PROLONGED PERIOD.

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4. ESPEY COMMENTED THAT ONE CANNOT BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN
LIBYAN TEAM ACCURATELY REFLECTS LARG OPINION AT HIGHER
LEVEL, BUT HE REMAINS MILDLY OPTIMISTIC. HE BELIEVED IT
POSSIBLE THAT NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE MOVED TO TRIPOLI (BUT
NOT BACK TO NEW YORK) SHOULD TALKS GO ON MUCH LONGER.

RICHARDSON

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